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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6301
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9667

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC, MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SAIGON 9667 6/18/71

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: BIG MINH SPEECH

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: DURING A POLITICAL RECEPTION AT HIS HOME JUNE 17 HEAVILY ATTENDED BY HIS ADHERENTS AND THE PRESS, PRESUMED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH DELIVERED A MAJOR BUT CHARACTERISTICALLY GENERAL AND HIGH TONED ADDRESS ON THE THEME OF PEACE. MINH CALLED FOR BUILDING NATIONAL UNITY AT HOME AS A MEANS OF PRESSING FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH THE NORTH AND ULTIMATELY FOR ACHIEVING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION THROUGH DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS A "NATIONALIST COMBATANT" IN CONTRAST TO THE ADVOCATES OF A MIDDLE POSITION, BIG MINH SAID THE NATIONALISTS MUST CREAT A RIGHTEOUS CAUSE THROUG AN URGENTPEACE OFFENSIVE. MINH ARGUED THAT A CONTINUATION F THE FIGHTING WOULD EXHAUST THE COUNTRY AND MAKE BOTH VIETNAMS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES. CLAIMING THE "PRESENT GOVERNMENT ALKS PEACE ONLY WHEN FORCED TO," MINH STATED "THE ARMED FORCES NEED PEACE" AS "THE GOVERNMENT HAS SQANDERED THE BLOOD OF THE SOLDIERS IN TRAGIC ADVENTURES." THE OTHER

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SIDE WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR IF FIGHTING CONTINUED FOLLOWING THE NEW PEACE ATTITUDE. MINH CLAIMED A CONVENTIONAL MILITARY VICTORY IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE 1) COMMUNISM IS A DOCTRINE THAT CAN ONLY BE TRANSFORMED BY ELIMINATING THE CAUSES FOR IT SUCH AS POVERTY, INJUSTICE ETC., AND 2 COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARY WAR IS TOTAL WAR. MINH WOULD SEEK NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, NOT THROUGH COERCION AND WAR, BUT THROUGH SEPARATE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WHICH INTIIALCUVMPHASIZED COOPERATION IN THE AREAS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. MINH ALSO DESCRIBED DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AS THE ONLY MEANS OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. MINH CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR A STRONG AND HONEST GOVERNMENT THAT THE PEOPLE COULD TRUSTOM FULL TEXT BEING SENT SEPARATELY.

3. COMMENT: MINH'S SPEECH IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE GENERAL INTENDS NOW TO BE A CANDIDATE AND THAT HIS MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE WILL BE PEACE. (ON JUNE 16 ANI QUANG SENATOR TRAN QUANG THUAN, MINH'S DIRECTOR FOR PLANNING, SHOWED EMBOFF TEXT OF SPEECH AND CONFIRMED THAT MINH CONSIDERS HIMSELF CANDIDATE. THUAN ADDED NOW USUAL CAVEAT THAT MINH WOULD WITHDRAW IFI HE BELIEVES ELECTIONS ARE BEING RIGGED.)
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